Boston Novem.r 17th 1776—

The Hon.ble John Hancock Esq.r

Dear Sir,

I wrote you the 10th Since which I have waited upon Capt Ewing according to your directions, he refuses to let me take Copies of the Papers because he says that Mr. Malbone cannot pay the Money, he has wrote him himself several times, and he has nothing to offer but hand Leasing even for Interest. I believe, Sir, the real difficulty is that Mr. Ewing is apprehensive that you will offer him Paper Money in payment, indeed he said as much, upon which I ask'd him if he would refuse Continental Bills if they were tendered him for a debt, he answered, he would take paper Money in payment for Interest, but not for Principal, let the Consequence be what it would. This Sir, is agreeing brit with us that our Monied Men will not support the Credit of the Currency, and must soon have very serious effects, one has already taken place, that our Merchants & Traders begin openly to make a difference of 25 p Cent and upwards, in the price of Goods in favor of hard Money. I heard yesterday that Col. Athearn has sold the other Brigg, but did not hear for what price, I expect to hear from, or see him, every minute. Cap.t Vernon has some thoughts of purchasing the Ship at your Wharff, but as she is a ~~m~~ Hull, and much damaged, and as Canvas & Rigging are ~~so~~ very scarce & high, I fear shall not be able to get near her value, however will do my best & inform you. Carneau has not yet returned. I was at Salem last Week to deliver the Ship to Mr Smith. I found some Whale Geer in Mr Darby's Store that belongs to you. & ordered it round here in the Ship. While I was at Salem Mr. Andrew Cabbot mentioned his intention to forward you two Boxes of Lemmons by a begell

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that was to sail in a day or two for Philadelphia, I urged him not to omit it thinking they would be agreeable. All things at the Mansion House are in good Order. All friends are well. The General Court being in Town has much enlivened us, they are busily engaged in raising Committees of War, Supplies &c. and are making such other preparations, that it looks as if they are seriously determined to put things upon a footing to raise & support a better Army than we have yet had. We have various Reports from New York about foreign War & that General Howe is retiring to the City, but we know not what to depend upon as we have no regular Accounts. I am without your favor since Cazneau came. I hope soon to receive your Orders about Matchet. Excuse haste as I am engaged with Mrs Bones on a party to Cambridge & she is now waiting, my principal Business then is to wait upon Mr Bradish with your Account. Mrs Bant joins Mrs Bones and myself in sending our most respectful Regards to you Mrs Hancock & Miss Katty. May God bless preserve and prosper you, and in due time may your friends here be so happy to see your return to your Seat with your family in Peace health & happiness. I am dear Sir with the sincerest & most respectful Regards

Your ever Obliged & most ready and most Obedient humble Servant

William Bant

To
The Hon.ble John Hancock Esq.

at

Philadelphia.

To

The Hon:ble John Hancock Esq.r

in

Philadelphia.

℘ Post

William Bant
Letter Nov.r 17. 1776
P.

Ms. v. H. 5.11.6